



# *CITY COUNCIL*

## ***Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee***

### ***Tuesday, February 21, 2012 Meeting Report***

**Committee Members Attending:** S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz Chair

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer, C. Jones

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair, called the Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

#### **Four Way Stop Intersection St. Bernardine and Greenway Tc**

Mr. Jones stated that Alvernia University requested this stop sign. He stated that the data does not show that the intersection qualifies for a stop sign but Alvernia paid for a study which recommended the stop sign to assist with pedestrian flow.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Alvernia contacted Albright to see how they acquired the stop signs they requested. He stated that Albright advised Alvernia to pay for the study.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Mr. Marmarou objected to this stop sign. Mr. Marmarou stated that he did not.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this ordinance will be introduced at the February 27 regular meeting.

Chief Heim arrived at this time.

#### **Condemnation Proceedings WWTP**

Mr. Jones stated that there are several small parcels near the waste water treatment plant that are not controlled by the City. He stated that the land is useless but is needed for construction purposes.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this ordinance is also being introduced at the February 27 regular meeting.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to prioritize agenda items. She noted the need for many items to be discussed as a Committee of the Whole in order to move them forward more quickly.

Mr. Jones left the meeting at this time.

#### **Property Maintenance Code Amendment**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz referred this item to the next Committee of the Whole discussion. Mr. Marmarou agreed.

#### **Quality of Life Ticketing Program Review**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz referred this item to the next Committee of the Whole discussion. She stated that her general recommendation is that some items merit warning and citation. Mr. Marmarou agreed.

#### **Outcomes of MDJ Rulings on Codes Cases**

Chief Heim stated that the Police Department is no longer affiliated with Codes but that he believed the rulings are posted on the City's website. He stated that if this is true, data can be easily calculated relating to those cases dismissed, guilty, etc.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she was unaware this information was available. She stated that she will research the issue and make calculations if the information is on the website.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked Ms. Katzenmoyer for keeping Council updated on codes cases. She stated that she attends hearings as she is able and has found that her attendance can affect the outcome of cases.

#### **Housing (CE 01 & CD 01)**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that an RFP has been issued for a stenographer to move the backlog process forward.

#### **Merchant Parking Permit**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz referred this item to the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for the City to check on use of the parking lot at 9<sup>th</sup> & Court Sts. He stated that he does not agree with the need for this permit but suggested that if Council wishes the permit remain the fee should be increased.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to understand how the lot at 9<sup>th</sup> & Court Sts is used and other background information. She noted the need for residents and customers to have accessible parking on 9<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Update Recreation Commission**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that progress is being made. She stated that Daphne Klahr started as Executive Director on February 13. She stated that Ms. Klahr is developing a budget and working to establish an employee benefits package. She suggested that Ms. Klahr attend a future Committee of the Whole meeting or Council Work Session to meet Council and make a presentation.

### **Other**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Chief Heim had any other items of concern to discuss. Chief Heim noted his concern with summer approaching. He stated that ranks will remain down until the current class completes their training in June. He stated that there are currently 167 officers.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she has been compiling substance abuse data and there is an alarming trend that fewer arrests have been made since there are fewer officers. She noted her concern with juvenile crime. Chief Heim agreed and stated that juvenile disturbances have increased.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if residency for juvenile arrests is public information to track if the increase is due to Reading juveniles or County juveniles coming into the City and causing problems. Chief Heim stated that he was unsure but would check this information.

Chief Heim reported that residents of the State at the Wernersville facility are not allowed to enter nearby stores but that they are allowed to bus into Reading to shop and look for work. He noted his disagreement with this approach and stated that he has addressed this issue with the State but has had no progress. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested forming a strategy to address this issue in the future.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that public safety ranked high in the core services review. She noted the need to keep this in mind during budget meetings. She stated that public safety employees have decreased but the Administration is proposing to increase other non-public safety positions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk*